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Gang Members Charged With Canoga Park Stray-Bullet Murder

Two purported Bryant Street gang members have been charged with the murder of a man allegedly hit by a stray bullet during a shooting in Canoga Park, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Ariel Baker Paniagua Jr. (dob 12/9/92) of Canoga Park and Hubaldo Martinez (dob 10/7/91) of Northridge face one count each of murder and shooting at an occupied motor vehicle and three counts each of attempted willful, deliberate and premeditated murder.

Deputy District Attorney Scott Marcus of the Hardcore Gang Division said victim Eduardo Rebolledo was struck by a stray bullet as he sat in his car on Oct. 6. The defendants were allegedly shooting at three rival gang members in a vehicle driving in front of them, the prosecutor added.

Case LAO81995 includes charges against Paniagua for an incident a few days later. Paniagua faces one count each of shooting at an occupied motor vehicle, discharge of firearm with gross negligence and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On Oct. 13, Paniagua allegedly shot at a car driving on Owensmouth Boulevard near Cohasset Street, Marcus said.

The charges for both incidents include gang, firearm, and prior felony conviction allegations for both defendants.

Both defendants entered not guilty pleas late yesterday and are scheduled to return on Oct. 27 to Department 122 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Van Nuys Branch.

Bail for Paniagua was set at \$5.3 million and more than \$5 million for Martinez.

If convicted as charged, Paniagua faces a possible maximum sentence of more than 180 years to life in state prison and Martinez faces 170 years to life.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, Topanga Station.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the <u>Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office</u> prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.